

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8995

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON:ESCAP:ETRN

SUBJ: RED:ESCAP:TWENTY-THIRD SESSION, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, 16-23 DECEMBER 1974, BANGKOK, ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SUBJECT MEETING CONTAINED E/CN.11/TRANS/L.190 AIR MAILED IO/CMD, NOVEMBER 22, 1974.

2. FIRST THREE AGENDA ITEMS AND ITEM 11 NEED NO COMMENT.

3. COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 10 FOLLOW BELOW. THIS COMMITTEE IS MAINLY REVIEWING REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY GROUPS OPERATING IN SUCH FIELDS AS RAILWAYS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, POSTAL EXPERTS, HIGHWAYS, SHIPPING AND PORTS, FACILITATION AND TOURISM. NO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARE EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED.

4. REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN FIELD OF RAILWAYS: COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO ENDORSE RECOMMENDATIONS OF RAILWAY GROUP MEETING, 18-24 SEPTEMBER, WHICH U.S. REP. ATTENDED. WE SUGGEST RECOMMENDING THAT FUTURE MEETING LAY LESS STRESS ON ULTRA-MODERN HIGH SPEED RAILWAY INNOVATIONS AND MORE ON THE APPLICATION OF MODERN RAILWAY TECHNOLOGY--SUCH AS ADOPTION OF AIR BREAKS. NO COMMENT NEEDED ON TRANS-ASIAN RAILWAY. BURMA, THE KEY LINK, DID NOT ATTEND SESSION.

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5. REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS: U.S. DID NOT FORMALLY ATTEND WORKING PARTY MEETING, BUT WE UNDERSTAND AD HOC STUDY GROUP PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF ASIAN TELECOMMUNITY OPEN ONLY TO REGIONAL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF ESCAP. WHILE THIS DISCRIMINATORY ASPECT DOES NOT BOTHER COMSAT AND ITT REPS WHO ATTENDED SESSION, WE RECOMMEND CLOSE STUDY OF AD HOC GROUP REPORT IN ANNEX I OF REPORT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING PARTY.

6. PROGRESS IN POSTAL SERVICES: NO U.S. DEL. ATTENDED WORKING PARTY, BUT WE NOTE IT RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHING RESEARCH AND STUDY CENTER AND ALSO REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER. WE RECOMMEND OPPOSING THEIR ESTABLISHMENT.

7. (A) REVIEW OF HIGHWAY ACTIVITIES: COMMITTEE WILL REDISCUSS MORIBUND ASIAN HIGHWAY PROJECT WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR PHASING OUT BY END OF 1975. EXCEPT FOR RECOMMENDING IMPROVED FACILITATION AT BORDER POINTS ON INTERNATIONAL ROADS, NO OTHER U.S. INPUT REQUIRED.

(B) SHIPPING, PORTS AND CONTAINERIZATION: UNDOUBTEDLY WHOLE ISSUE OF CREATING SEPARATE ESCAP SHIPPING COMMITTEE WILL BE OPENED UP AGAIN AS IN TRADE COMMITTEE. WE RECOMMEND U.S. DEL. REITERATE LATEST U.S. POSITION CONTAINED STATE 268117. WE UNDERSTAND SHIPPING UNIT CHIEF GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING TO SHARE NEW INTEGRATED WORK PROGRAM ON PORTS WITH TRADE CIFICATION. U.S. DEL. MIGHT, IF HE CAN, ALSO MENTION U.S. INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN NEW ROVING MISSION ON LASH VESSELS SIMILAR TO CONTAINERIZATION MISSION IN 1973 IN WHICH U.S. PARTICIPATED.

7. (C) GENERAL TRANSPORT PLANNING AND COORDINATION: ANYTHING U.S. DEL. CAN SAY ABOUT RECENT U.S. EXPERIENCE WOULD BE WELCOMED.

(D) FACILITATION OF TRAFFIC: IF U.S. CAN PARTICIPATE IN ROVING MISSION ON FACILITATION IN 1975, AS WELL AS FOLLOW-UP SYMPOSIUM, U.S. DEL. SHOULD SAY SO. POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN ESCAP AND SEATAC SHOULD BE SUPPORT.

(E) TOURIST DEVELOPMENT: ESCAP STUDY ON COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF TOURISM IN REGION SHOULD BE COMMENTED UPON IF STUDY HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

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8. WORK PROGRAM: DURING DISCUSSION WE RECOMMEND U.S. DEL. TAKE POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT OUTLINED PARA 3, STATE 266122.

9. CONSIDERATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE: WE RECOMMEND U.S. DEL. SHOULD RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE CONTAINED PARA 2, STATE 266122.

10. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: NO COMMENT
NECESSARY.
MASTERS

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